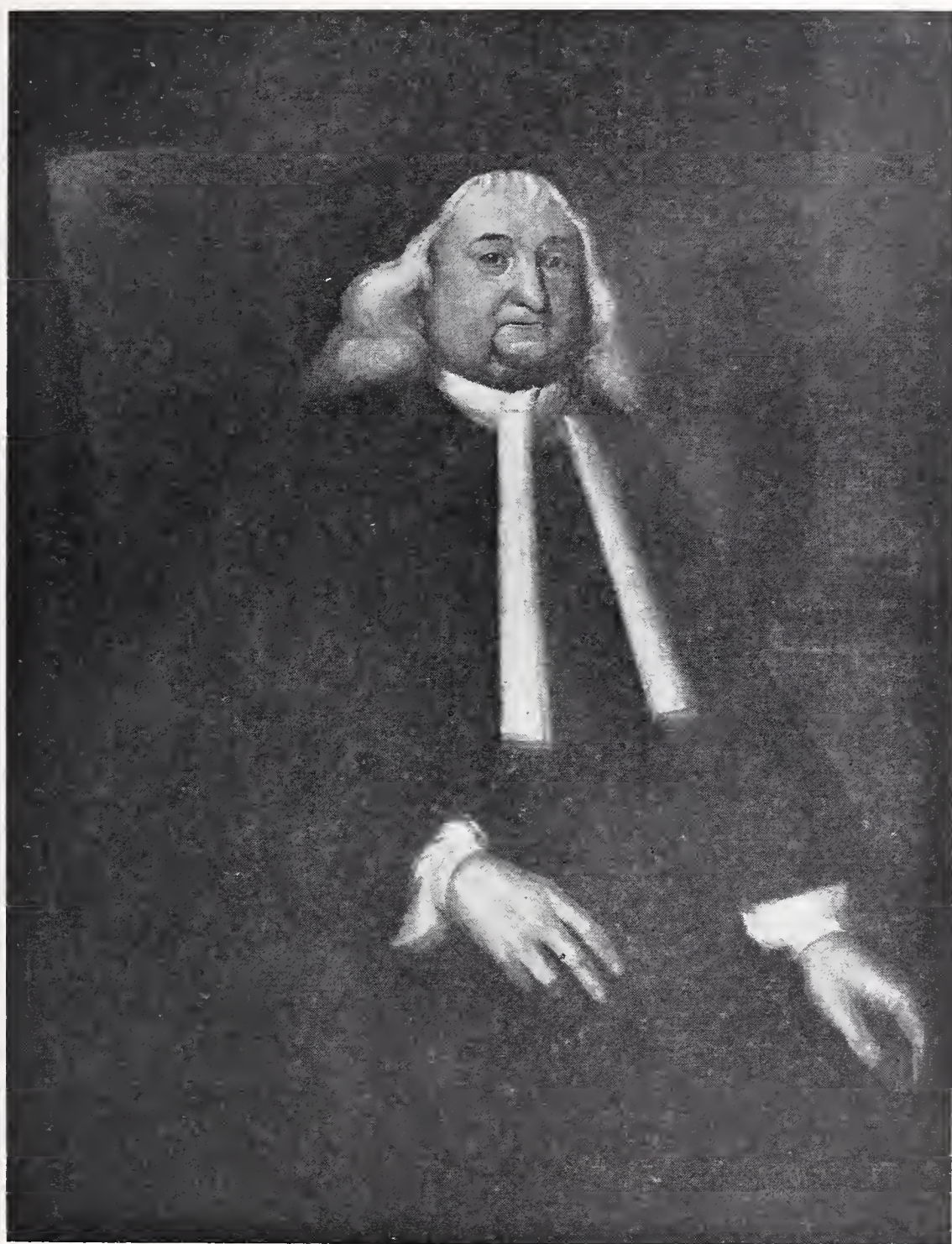


Proposal For Publishing

An Historical Digest of
the Provincial Press

With Suggestive Leaves and Illustrations





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An Historical Digest of the Provincial Press



Being a Collation of All Items of Personal and Historic Reference Relating to American Affairs Printed in the Newspapers of the Provincial Period Beginning with the Appearance of The Present State of the New-English Affairs, 1689, Publick Occurrences, 1690, and the First Issue of The Boston News-Letter, 1704, and Ending with the Close of the Revolution, 1783

Illustrated

MASSACHUSETTS SERIES

Volume One



COMPILED AND EDITED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

LYMAN HORACE WEEKS

Author of *Prominent Families of New York*, *Book of Bruce*, Etc.

AND

EDWIN M. BACON

Author of *Historic Pilgrimages in New England*, *The Connecticut River and the Valley of the Connecticut*, Etc.

BOSTON

THE SOCIETY FOR AMERICANA, INC.

MDCCCXC

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THE SOCIETY FOR AMERICANA, INC.
BOSTON

PROPOSAL

IT is proposed to compile and publish a digest of all items relating to American affairs,—of personal reference and historic events together with documents,—that were printed in the Massachusetts newspapers of the provincial period. At the suggestion and with the endorsement of members of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and of other historical organizations, this work has been undertaken by Lyman Horace Weeks and Edwin M. Bacon, editors, and The Society For Americana, publishers. For many years a digest of this character has been contemplated and has been keenly desired by historians and others; but the large expense, the great amount of labor, and the considerable financial risk involved in its adequate and satisfactory accomplishment, have heretofore been unsurmountable obstacles in the way of attempting it. Now the project is entered upon under favorable conditions and with a sound financial backing that will enable it to be carried to a successful termination; and it has the approbation of librarians, scholars and others most interested in the preservation of all that pertains to the public doings and domestic affairs of the American founders.

A Great
Historical
Undertaking

The importance of such a compilation is indisputable, and in the experience of investigators is constantly emphasized by the inadequacy and inaccessibility of information touching this formative period in American history. Many of the old town and church records have disappeared. That valuable documents and papers were carried away from Boston at the time of the evacuation is well known. Not even the town records of Boston, and of other cities and towns,—the minutes of the town meetings, of the selectmen, and of other proceedings,—or the records of probate courts and of the registers of deeds, are complete; and in Boston and elsewhere many vital statistics are lacking. In numerous instances no records were kept; in many others the records have been lost or destroyed. The publication of the ancient town records and other documents by the city registrar of Boston, and the Massachusetts Vital Records by the New England Historic Genealogical Society particularly disclose this condition.

Lost Records
and
Documents

PROPOSAL

The early newspapers preserved a great amount of material, not elsewhere to be found, in reports of local events, in official documents and other papers, and in personal items relating to the daily lives of the people and to the activities of the communities then developing. Such information is incontestably valuable to the historian, the genealogist, the student, the lawyer, the judge, the conveyancer, and others, both from the literary and the practical view, serving to illuminate much that otherwise would remain obscure, and furnishing vital data concerning both public and private affairs of that period. Also in the special field of literature much is discoverable in the columns of these old newspapers that is of peculiar interest and value to the investigator into literary usages, the origin of words, terms and phrases which have worked their way into the common language. All this it is proposed to collect and preserve in An Historical Digest.

Valuable
Historial
Material

While this information will supplement other records and meet deficiencies existing in them, it will particularly include an abundance of matter of distinctive character and not heretofore collected, bearing upon such subjects as—

Port Statistics,
Importations,
Residences,
Passenger Arrivals and
Departures
Wills,

Public Proceedings,
Events, Local and Colonial,
Business Pursuits and Ventures,
Real-Estate Transactions,
Court and Administrative Affairs,
Legislative Acts.

Some
Special
Subjects

The items comprised in the Digest will be arranged in chronological order under the names of the newspapers from which they are taken, with dates of issue and reference to the libraries in which the different issues are now preserved. All the personal items, reports of events, and historical documents that have never been reprinted and that constitute the bulk of the data to be drawn upon will be reproduced entire. Documents and historical papers that have been already reprinted in collections of historical and antiquarian societies or in standard works of history will not always be reproduced in full, but will be briefly abstracted and reference made to those works wherein they can be readily consulted. In its entirety An Historical Digest will be a complete abstract, or an index, of all the provincial newspapers of the period included in review. It is intended that the work shall largely obviate the necessity of consulting the originals save, perhaps, in exceptional instances by scholars, and place this material, now widely separated, once for all in compact form, wholly available for the widest private and public use.

A Complete
Abstract

PROPOSAL

Such copies of these early periodicals as have been preserved are scattered in many libraries in different parts of the country. No single library has a complete set of any one of them. To consult all existing numbers the investigator must have recourse to several libraries in widely separated cities, such as Boston, Worcester, Hartford, New York, Philadelphia, Washington; Madison, Wisconsin, and elsewhere. In some instances the only copies preserved are in private or proprietary libraries not generally open to the public. Thus these valuable periodicals are not alone difficult of consultation, but in many instances they are practically inaccessible. Moreover, many of them are in such frail and perishable condition that their custodians soon will be compelled seriously to consider the wisdom of withdrawing them altogether from promiscuous use. The danger of loss by fire is also ever present. For all reasons, therefore, it is obvious that a pressing necessity exists for collecting and preserving this matter in a form most convenient for use and forever secure from destruction.

**The Perishable
Old Newspapers**

The labor of compilation has been entrusted to persons experienced in research of this character and familiar with our colonial and provincial history; and the careful editorial direction and supervision will, it is believed, insure substantial thoroughness and accuracy. The reprinting will be with strict textual fidelity to the originals, peculiarities of spelling, capitalization, punctuation, abbreviations and so on being carefully retained.

**Compiling and
Editing**

The Digest will be published in octavo volumes closely conforming in typographic style to such standard historical compilations as the Town Records of Boston and the Massachusetts Vital Records. Each volume will have about five hundred pages and will be illustrated with reproductions or fac-similes of newspapers and other publications, and portraits of representative men of the period covered. The printing will be on rag paper that will ensure lasting durability. The binding will be in buff and blue, the colonial colors, and, further to carry out the idea of colonial style, the titles will be printed on white labels. Each of the twenty volumes in the set will be complete in itself and will be provided with a copious index. In conclusion there will be, in a single volume, an exhaustive personal and analytical index to the entire work.

**Printing,
Illustrating
and Binding**

Terms

THE edition will be limited and the work will be sold by subscription only in sets of twenty volumes. To advance subscribers the work will be sold at \$7.50 the volume but the publishers reserve the right to increase the price at any time to any but advance subscribers. It is proposed that the successive volumes in chronological order, shall be printed quarterly. They will be delivered as published, one or more at a time, or in full sets when wholly completed, as subscribers may prefer.

Terms of
Subscription

The First Volume of The Digest

IN the first volume of An Historical Digest will be several special features of paramount historical and bibliographical value. These will be introductory to, and explanatory of the newspaper texts which follow in the first and succeeding volumes.

I

This is a list, chronologically arranged, of the newspapers and other periodicals published in Massachusetts, beginning with the single sheet of extracts from letters of the Reverend Increase Mather in 1689 and ending with the close of the Revolution in 1783. The full titles of these periodicals, typographically exact, with the dates of their first known issues and of their last known issues prior to January 1784, are given.

Massachusetts
Periodicals
1689-1783

II

In this historical sketch is presented a short account of printing in the Massachusetts-Bay Colony, immediately preceeding the establishment of the first newspaper. Reference is made to the first broadsides and the distribution of semi-official manuscript news letters as indicating the beginning of a desire for news on the part of the colonists.

Precursors of
the Newspapers

III

Several accounts of the first newspapers and their printers have been published, and many incidental references throwing light upon them are found in various historical and other publications. This list of authorities embraces the titles of those works upon which the investigator must principally depend for general information upon the subject.

List of
Authorities

IV

A list of the public and proprietary libraries of the United States in which are preserved copies of the early Massachusetts newspapers. In connection therewith is presented the system of abbreviations used throughout this Digest to show in what particular libraries copies of each successive issue of all these newspapers are preserved.

List of
Libraries

THE FIRST VOLUME OF THE DIGEST

V

The Present
State of the
New-English
Affairs

As far as is known this was the first news broadside printed in the Massachusetts-Bay Colony. It consists of extracts from letters sent from England by the Reverend Increase Mather relating to his mission to the mother country at the time of the overthrow of the Andros government. It is reprinted in full in the Digest with a bibliographical introduction.

VI

Publick
Occurrences

This—in 1690—was the first attempt in the Massachusetts-Bay Colony to establish a newspaper, although its existence was confined to a single issue, since it was interdicted by the government. An extended historical and bibliographical account of this publication and its printers is given, and the full text from the original, only a single copy of which is known to be in existence—in the Public Office in London.

VII

The
Campbell
News Letters

These manuscript letters were written from time to time in 1700 and 1703 by John Campbell, postmaster of Boston, and his brother Duncan Campbell, a Boston bookseller. In them were local Boston items, reports received from the other colonies, and the latest news coming from abroad,—and they were sent to the governors of the several New England colonies. Originals of these letters are in the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society. In this Digest they are reprinted from the original manuscripts.

VIII

The Boston
News-Letter

An historical sketch of the Boston News-Letter gives a full account of the beginning of that newspaper, the first in the English-speaking colonies of America to maintain a permanent existence. In this sketch which treats also of the publisher and printers of the News-Letter are interesting bibliographical details, and particularly a description of a file of the News-Letter which once belonged to Judge Samuel Sewall, with a reprinting for the first time of Sewall's marginal notes therein.

IX

Text of the
News-Letter

Following these introductory features will begin the reprinting of the text of the News-Letter from its first issue of April 24, 1704; and more than half the volume is thus filled.

Other Volumes of The Digest

IN the second volume the reprinting of the text of the News-Letter will be continued and that of the Boston Gazette which was established in 1719 will be started. Following chronologically thereafter will be the reprinting of the New England Courant, the New England Weekly Journal, the Weekly Rehearsal, the Boston Post-Boy, the Boston Evening-Post, the Independent Advertiser, the Boston Chronicle, the Massachusetts Gazette, the Essex Gazette, the Massachusetts Spy, the Essex Journal, the Salem Gazette, the New-England Chronicle, the Continental Journal, the American Gazette, the Independent Ledger, the Evening Post, the Massachusetts Gazette, and the Massachusetts Herald.

The Boston
Gazette and
other News-
papers

Illustrations and Indexes

THE illustrations will constitute a particularly interesting and valuable feature of this work. Fac-simile reproductions of titles and of pages similar to the pages of the Boston News-Letter in this prospectus, will illuminate and add greatly to the historical importance of each volume. In connection therewith will be portraits of the men of the period, maps and views, and reproductions of wood cuts which appeared in the newspapers in their titles and in their text.

Fac-Simile
Reproductions
Portraits and
Views

Each volume will be indexed in the most thorough manner. The indexes will be comprehensive and complete, covering persons, places, events and topics, and there will be analytical and cross indexing. The final index volume, covering the entire work of twenty volumes, will be a complete guide to the Massachusetts newspaper Americana of the period.

The Indexes



Massachusetts Periodicals

1689-1783

FOLLOWING is a list, chronologically arranged, of newspapers and other periodicals published in Massachusetts, during the provincial period, beginning with the single sheet of extracts from letters of the Reverend Increase Mather in 1689, and ending with the close of the Revolution in 1783. The list is based upon a similar list in volume 9 of the Publications of The Colonial Society of Massachusetts—which has been used herewith by the kind permission of Albert Matthews of Boston.¹ Considerable dependence has also been placed upon the work of William Nelson of Paterson, New Jersey.² Original investigation of first sources by the editors of this Digest has added to this knowledge.

During their existence several of these newspapers were published under different names. These names have been entered separately, and, where necessary for identification, the parent title is given in connection therewith in brackets. In this list two titles,—the Campbell manuscript letters,—are not of periodicals nor even of publications. Nevertheless it has been considered quite in keeping with the character and purpose of this Digest to include them inasmuch as they were essentially of news character, and were the first expressions of that public desire for news which ultimately led to the establishment of The Boston News-Letter.

The Present State of the New-English Affairs; Boston, 1689

Publick Occurrences both Forreign and Domestick; Boston, September 25, 1690

Letters Written by John Campbell, Postmaster of Boston, and sent to the Governors of New England; April—October, 1703.

Letters Written by Duncan Campbell of Boston and sent to Governor Winthrop of Connecticut

The Boston News-Letter; April 24, 1704—December 29, 1726

The Boston Gazette; December 21, 1719—October 12, 1741

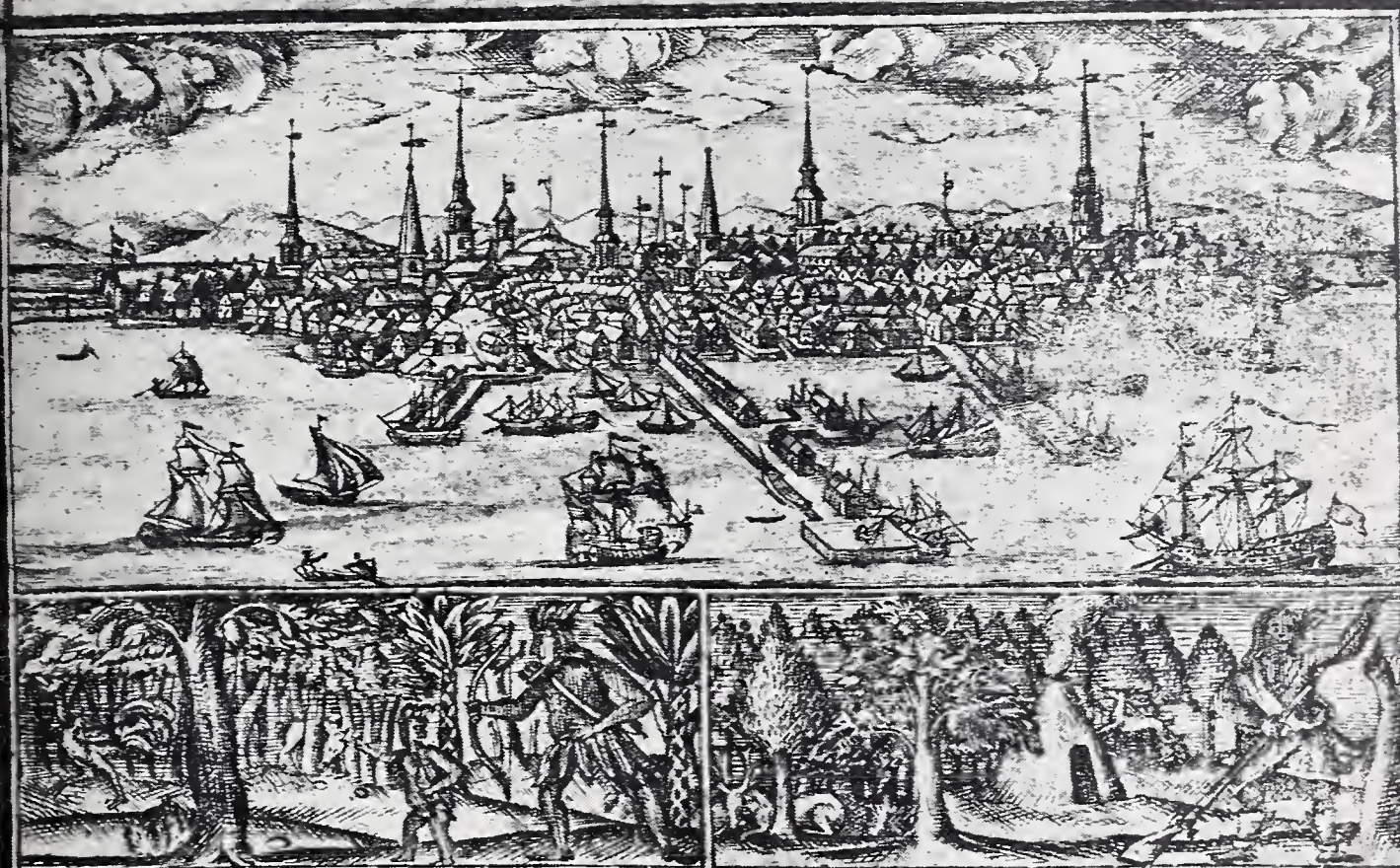
The New-England Courant; Boston, August 7, 1721—June 4, 1726

The Weekly News-Letter; Boston, January 5, 1727—October 29, 1730

1 Check List of Boston Newspapers, 1704-1780, by Mary Farwell Ayer, with Bibliographical Notes by Albert Matthews.

2 Archives of the State of New Jersey, First Series, vol XII.

THE
AMERICAN MAGAZINE
AND
HISTORICAL CHRONICLE.
MDCCLXIII. MDCCLXIV.



Superior Boston Engraving
FUCUNDA VARIETAS.

B O S T O N :

Printed by ROGERS and FOWLE, and Sold by S. ELIOT, and J. BLANCHARD
in *Boston* ; B. FRANKLIN in *Philadelphia* ; J. PARKER in *New-York* ; J.
POMROY in *New-Haven* ; C. CAMPBELL, Post-Master in *Newport*. 1744.

Where may be had compleat SETTS from the Beginning.

Price THREE SHILLINGS New Tenor a Quarter.

MASSACHUSETTS PERIODICALS

- The New-England Weekly Journal; Boston, March 20, 1727—October 13, 1741
- The Boston Weekly News-Letter; November 5, 1730—August 25, 1757
- The Weekly Rehearsal; Boston, September 27, 1731—August 11, 1735
- The Boston Weekly Post-Boy; October, 1734 [?]-June 4, 1750
- The Boston Evening-Post; August 18, 1735—April 24, 1775
- The Boston Gazette, or, New England Weekly Journal; October 20, 1741
- The Boston Gazette, or, Weekly Journal; October 27, 1741—December 26, 1752
- The Boston Weekly Magazine; March 2—March 16, 1743
- The Christian History; Boston, March 5, 1743—February 23, 1745
- The American Magazine and Historical Chronicle; Boston, September, 1743—December, 1746
- The Independent Advertiser; Boston, January 4, 1748—December 5, 1749
- The Boston Post-Boy; June 11, 1750—December 23, 1754
- The Boston Gazette, or, Weekly Advertiser; January 3, 1753—April 1, 1755
- The Boston Gazette, or Country Journal; April 7, 1755—April 5, 1756
- The Boston Gazette, and Country Journal; April 12, 1756—April 5, 1779¹
- The Boston Weekly Advertiser [Boston Post-Boy]; August 22, 1757—December 25, 1758
- The Boston^a News-Letter; September 1, 1757—March 18, 1762
- The New England Magazine; Boston, August, 1758—1759 [?]²
- Green & Russell's Boston Post-Boy & Advertiser; January 1, 1759—May 23, 1763
- The Boston News-Letter. And New-England Chronicle; March 25—December 30, 1762
- The Boston News-Letter, and the New-England Chronicle; January 6—March 31, 1763

[The remaining part of this list of Massachusetts Periodicals is printed in the first volume of AN HISTORICAL DIGEST.]

1 Published in Watertown, June 5, 1775—November 1776.

2 Three numbers of this magazine are known to be in existence. The title of the first number reads The New England Magazine for August 1758, and that of the second and third numbers The New England Magazine Of Knowledge and Pleasure.

Precursors of the Newspaper

IT has been estimated that from the setting up of the first printing press in the English-speaking colonies of America, by Stephen Daye in Cambridge, Massachusetts-Bay, in 1639, until the close of the colonial period, half a century thereafter, more than three hundred books and pamphlets by New England writers were produced by the printers of Cambridge and Boston. This was a remarkable output for a pioneer people and some of the Boston imprints became famous even in the old world.

This early-planted and rapidly-developed literary and typographic activity gradually led to the printing of news-sheets although fifty years were allowed to elapse before the home press gave the colonists anything to read except books and pamphlets,—mainly religious—almanacs, and the acts and resolves of the general court. Foreign news came in the few and infrequent London newspapers, while the scant domestic happenings were reported by word of mouth or by personal letters passing between relatives or friends in different communities. When, occasionally, some specially important matter developed broadsides were printed and sold, but only at the instance, or with the permission of the government, for the press was not yet free and nothing could be put forth except as “published by authority.” Such, for example, was the broadside of 1689, entitled: *The Present State of the New-English Affairs*. So far as has been discovered this was the first publication in the colonies of a purely domestic news character and as such it is reprinted in this Digest, although it was in no sense a newspaper.

Another publication of the period, similar to the preceding was: **Admiral Russel’s L E T T E R TO THE Earl of Nottingham, Containing an Exact and Particular Relation of the Late Happy Victory and Success Against The French Fleet**. This letter which was “published by authority,” gives an account of the naval engagement between the English and Dutch fleets on the one side, and the French fleet on the other, off capes La Hogue and Barfleur in May 1692. The letter of the Admiral, dated Portsmouth, June 2, 1692, describes circumstantially the movements of the allied naval forces, day by day, from Wednesday, May 18, to Wednesday, May 25, and tells how the French fleet was defeated and completely destroyed.

Following this letter is a copy of a private letter from Portsmouth, dated May 29, 1692. In the latter an account is given of the burning of the French ships which were driven into the harbor of La Hogue.

[The rest of this introductory sketch is in the first volume of *AN HISTORICAL DIGEST*.]

List of Authorities

SEVERAL accounts of the newspapers and their printers in the Massachusetts Province have been written, and many incidental references throwing light upon them are found in various historical and other publications. The subjoined list of authorities makes no pretence to minute completeness, but it embraces the titles of those works upon which the investigator must principally depend. In fact the editors are confident that nothing of substantial importance has been omitted from it.

A Narrative of the Newspapers printed in New-England—In a letter to the President of the Historical Society, from one of the members. In Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society for the year 1798. Boston, 1798. Vol. V, pp. 208-216.

This paper appears to have been the first printed account of the earliest American newspapers. It is signed A.Z., and the author was the Reverend John Eliot, D.D., pastor of the New North Church, Boston, and one of the founders and the first librarian of the Massachusetts Historical Society. The sketch is brief and naturally inadequate, and it contains numerous errors. It presents some facts but on the whole is not of much value.

Continuation of the Narrative of Newspapers published in New-England, from the year 1704 to the Revolution; in a letter from one of the members to the president of the society. In Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society for the year 1800. Boston, 1800. Vol. VI, pp. 64-67.

This paper was also from the pen of the Reverend John Eliot and is open to the same criticism as its predecessor. In it is included a brief two-page sketch of the newspapers of Connecticut from 1755 to 1800, written by the great lexicographer, Noah Webster, and enumerating seventeen publications.

The History of Printing in America. With a Biography of Printers, and an Account of Newspapers. To which is prefixed a concise view of the Discovery and Progress of the Art in Other Parts of the World. In two volumes. By Isaiah Thomas, Printer, Worcester, Massachusetts. Worcester: From the press of Isaiah Thomas, jun. Isaac Sturtevant, Printer. 1810.

This two-volume work has always been and is likely always to continue to be the fundamental source of information for the period which it covers. Thomas was a successful printer and publisher, an editor of wide experience, a shrewd observer, and an indefatigable collector of literature bearing upon the printing of books and newspapers. Beginning printing in 1755 he was, for half a century, one of the most active and most able newspaper men of

[The rest of this List of Authorities is in the first volume of AN HISTORICAL DIGEST.]

The Present State of the New-English Affairs

A BROADSIDE, published in Boston in the autumn of 1689, bearing the imprint "Boston, Printed and Sold by *Samuel Green*." It is a single sheet printed on one side, the paper page being 8 by 14½ inches and the type page 6¾ by 12 inches, made up in two columns. The first column is filled by an extract from a letter of the Reverend Increase Mather to Governor Simon Bradstreet, dated: "*Sept. 3, 1689 from Deal in Kent*." At the head of the second column is "*A Passage extracted from the publick News-Letter, [of London] Dated July 6, 1689*." Following this is an extract from a letter written by Mr. Mather, to his son the Reverend Cotton Mather, and there is added a paragraph of domestic news regarding the overthrow of Sir Edmund Andros.

A solitary specimen of this publication has been preserved, and is in the Massachusetts Archives, vol. XXXV, page 83, in the State House, Boston. The sheet has been reprinted in the Massachusetts Magazine, Boston, October, 1789, vol. I, page 642; in the Collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society, in 1824 and 1866, vol. I, pages 252-255 and vol. VIII, pages 258-260; and in The Andros Tracts, vol. II, pages 15-18: also twice in fac-simile; in 1902, by William Green Shillaber of the Club of Odd Volumes; and in 1903 by Dr. Samuel Abbott Green in his Ten Fac-Simile Reproductions Relating to Various Subjects. Mr. Shillaber refers to this sheet as "The first attempt at newspaper publication on this side of the Atlantic Ocean." Others have contended that it was a newspaper and detailed arguments have been made in support of this contention. The consensus of opinion, however, is that the sheet was not in any respect a newspaper. Strictly speaking it was not even an attempt at a newspaper, an essential distinction of which is successive and regular publication. It was a broadside simply, but in it was a germ of the coming newspaper. For an extended consideration of this publication and the arguments for and against the claim that it should be regarded as a newspaper, see a paper by Albert Matthews in the Proceedings of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, vol. X, pages 310-320.

[The remaining part of this historical sketch is in the first volume of AN HISTORICAL DIGEST.]



The Present State of the
New-English Affairs.

This is Published to prevent False Report.

*An Extract of a Letter from Mr. Mather, To the Govenour, Dated
Sept. 3, 1689 from Deal in Kent.*

THe House of Commons Ordered a Bill to be drawn up for the Restoration of Charters to all Corporations. Some Enemies of *New-England* did bestir themselves on that Occasion. But it has pleased God to succeed Endeavours and Sollicitations here so far, so that *N. E.* is particularly mentioned in the Bill.

It has been read twice, and after that referred unto a Committee for Emendations. What concerns *N. England* passed without any great opposition. The Bill has been in part read the third Time, and the Charters of *N.-Eng.* then also passed without Objection. Only some Additional Clauses respecting Corporations here, caused Debates; so that the Bill is not yet Enacted.

In the latter end of *June*, a Vessel from *Mount Hope* arrived here, which brought your Declaration of *April 18.* with an account of the Revolution in *New-England.* The week after I went to *Hampton Court*, and had the favour to wait on His Majesty, who told me, *That He did accept of, and was well pleased with what was done in New-England, and that he would order the Secretary of State to signifie so much, and that His Subjects there should have their Ancient Rights and Priviledges restored to them.*

The King has sent a Gracious Letter (which was delivered to me, and if I return not my self, I shall take care that it be sent to you) bearing Date *August 12.* *Wherein He signifies His Royal Approbation* of what has been done at *Boston*, and assures you that the Government there shall be settled, so as shall be for the Security and Satisfaction of His Subjects in that Colony, and in the mean time bids you go on to Administer the Laws, and manage the Government, according as in your Address you have Petitioned.

My Lord *Mordent* (now Earl of *Monmouth*) bade me assure you that He would be your Friend, and he bade me tell you from him, *That your Charters should be restored to you by Act of Parliament.*

I have been with most of the Kings most Honourable Privy Coun-

[The remaining part of The Present State of the New-English Affairs is in the first volume of AN HISTORICAL DIGEST.]

Publick Occurrences

UNTIL the single known copy of *The Present State of the New-English Affairs* came to light in 1789¹ this print of *Publick Occurrences* was regarded as the first news publication of the English colonies in the Western Hemisphere. Even now the distinction of being the first attempt to start a newspaper in the colonies must be accorded it for, undoubtedly, the publishers intended to continue it regularly had it not fallen under the ban of the government. It is a small quarto printed on three sides of a folded sheet, two columns to the page, the paper page being 7½ by 11½ inches and the type pages, the first, 5⅞ by 10¾, the second 5¾ by 10⅜, and the third, 5⅞ by 10⅝ inches. It has for a colophon, "Printed by Richard Pierce for Benjamin Harris."

The only known contemporaneous reference to the publication, except the Governor's order of suppression, was by Chief Justice Samuel Sewall, who wrote in 1690:²

"Sept. 25. A printed sheet entituled publick Occurences comes out, which gives much distaste because not Licensed; and because of the passage referring to the French King and the Maquas [Mohawks].

Oct. 1. Print of the Governour and Council comes out shewing their disallowance of the Publick Occurences.

Oct. 2. Mr. [Cotton] Mather writes a very sharp Letter about it."

Elsewhere, under date of September 25, Judge Sewall again refers to "the first sheet of Occurrences, which came out this day."³

But the publishers were ahead of their time. Those in authority were not yet tolerant of a free press. Immediately on its appearance the continuance of the print was promptly interdicted. Following is the order for its suppression, a copy of which is preserved in the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society:

[The remaining part of this historical and bibliographical account of *Publick Occurrences* is in the first volume of *AN HISTOICAL DIGEST*.]

1 Reprinted in the *Massachusetts Magazine* (Boston) for October, 1789.

2 *Diary of Samuel Sewall*, vol. I, pp. 332-333.

3 *Letter-Book of Samuel Sewall*, vol. I, p. 112.

PUBLICK
OCCURRENCES

Both *FORREIGN* and *DOMESTICK*

Boston, Thursday, Sept. 25th. 1690.

I*T is designed, that the Countrey shall be furnished once a moneth (or if any Glut of Occurrences happen, oftener.) with an Account of such considerable things as have arrived unto our Notice.*

In order hereunto, the Publisher will take what pains he can to obtain a Faithful Relation of all such things; and will particularly make himself beholden to such Persons in Boston whom he knows to have been for their own use the diligent Observers of such matters.

That which is herein proposed, is, First, That Memorable Occurrences of Divine Providence may not be neglected or forgotten, as they too often are. Secondly, That people every where may better understand the Circumstances of Publique Affairs, both abroad and at home; which may not only direct their Thoughts at all times, but at some times also to assist their Businesses and Negotiations.

Thirdly, That some thing may be done towards the Curing, or at least the Charming of that Spirit of Lying, which prevails amongst us, wherefore nothing shall be entered, but what we have reason to believe is true, repairing to the best fountains for our Information. And when there appears any material mistake in any thing that is collected, it shall be corrected in the next.

Moreover, the Publisher of these Occurrences is willing to eugage that whereas, there are many False Reports, maliciously made, and spread among us, if any well-minded person will be at the pains to trace any such false Report, so far as to find out and Convict the First Raiser of it, he will in this Paper (unless just Advice be given to the contrary) expose the Name of such person, as A malicious Raiser of a false Report. It is suppos'd that none will dislike this Proposal, but such as intend to be guilty of so villanous a Crime.

T*he Christianized Indians in some parts of Plimouth, have newly appointed a day of Thanksgiving to God for his Mercy in supplying their extream and pinching Necessities under their late want of Corn. & for His giving them now a prospect of a very Comfortable Harvest. Their Example may be worth Mentioning.*

Tis observed by the Husbandmen, that altho' the With-draw of

[The remaining part of the text of Publick Occurrences is in the first volume of AN HISTORICAL DIGEST.]

The Campbell News Letters

DURING the year of 1703 John Campbell, who was then Postmaster of Boston and subsequently established the Boston News-Letter, sent to the governors of the several New England colonies manuscript letters in which he gave the latest news received by him from abroad, local items of Boston and reports received from other American colonies. Twelve of these letters are now preserved in the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Nine were printed in the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, in March 1867, volume 9, pages 485-501. Nine other manuscript news-letters of this period, and of earlier dates, were printed in the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, for February 1873, vol. 12, pages 419-427. The earliest of these is "An Extract of a Letter: from Cambridge, Dat: Ap^l: 4th 66." And to this is added, "An other Extract of a Letter Ap^l: 11th 66 from Boston." Others bear dates as follows: Philadelphia, June 5, 1699; Boston, June 19, 1699; New York, April 29, 1700; Boston, May 6, 1700; Boston, May 28, 1700; Boston, June 14, 1703, and Boston, October 4, 1703. Most of these are addressed to Governor John Winthrop of Connecticut. That dated Boston, May 28, 1700 is signed by Duncan Campbell, and that of October 4, 1703 is endorsed as "Mr. John Campbells Newes". The writers of others of these letters are not now known.

John Campbell was of Scotch ancestry. He was in Boston in 1695 and died March 4, 1728. He was president of the Scots Charitable Society, 1727-28. In the Boston News-Letter of March 7, 1728, was this paragraph: "On Monday evening last, the 4th Currant, about 8 a Clock died here John Campbell, Esq., Aged 75 years, formerly Post Master in this Place, Publisher of the Boston News-Letters for many years, and One of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the County of Suffolk." Duncan Campbell was John Campbell's brother, and a bookseller. Of him John Dunton writes:

"I rambled to the Scotch Bookseller, one Campbel: He is a brisk young Fellow, that dresses All-a-mode, and sets himself off to the best Advantage; and yet thrives apace. I am told (and for his sake I wish it may be true) that a Young Lady of Great Fortune has married him. He's an Industrious Man and saw me often."

He married Susanna Porter, daughter of William and Grace

[The remaining part of this historical sketch is printed in the first volume of AN HISTORICAL DIGEST.]

1 Letters from New England. By John Dunton; p. 80.

THE CAMPBELL NEWS LETTERS

Boston, Aprill 12th 1703

Last Week arrived A Vessell from ffyall and tells that about nine Week's from this time Two Vessells arrived from Scotland and one from Corke in Ireland, that gave an Accot. that the union between England and Scotland was concluded upon and said master from ffyall sayes he see it in publick prints

Cap^t. Smith In the Gospert ffrigett from Jamacia Arrived here also Last Week, and by him are Informed of the union being Concluded upon, he came from Jamaica about midle or tenth of March

Wee do apprehend that the union is only agreed upon by the Commissioners which if true will be a great Step, Towards both parliam^{ts}. Concluding it, being the Commissioners are Some of the greatest men of both nations.

They Talk from Jamaica, of the Spainards Sueing for a peace, That about 20 Grandees were come to Portugale, to get the King of Portugale to Interceed with her Maje^e. of England to appoint Plenipotentiary to mediat. Cap^t. Lawrence is arrived at Rhoad Island & a Bermudus Sloop, both Privateers, who in Comp^a with Cap^t. Blue an other privateer took a Spanish Ship of 8 guns, Loaden with Canary and Brandy, and other goods, bound for the Havanna, who had on board 12 families consisting of above 130 Soules[.] The Prisoners they put on Shoare in N. Spain, all to about 7. The Three Consorts put 17 men an a Quarter master on board, Cap^t. Blue Attended her with his Sloop or vessell, The Prize is not yet arrived—The Prize Said to Come from Spain, and touched at the Canary's.

Cap^t. Southack with our Westarn fleet, arrived Yesterday.

Cap^t. Delbridge will Sayle for London In 20 days Ten guns; & Cap^t. Dows lyke guns In a moneth.

[Written on the third page of this letter sheet]

Hono^{ble} Sir

Boston, April 12th 1703

I'm favoured with yo^r ho^{rs} of the 9 Instant.—Came in too day about ii aclocke & do dispatch him again at ffive because should have no excuse to hinder his Coming In on Satturday so have no tyme. either for selfe or man to go to Mad^m Richards but the letter I sent theire Two days after its receipt.

on other Syde is what occurrd, with the Inclosed print, and with humble service am S^r

Yo^r ho^{rs} humble Serv^t

Go^v Winthrop

Jn^o Campbell.

[New London, Connecticut.] ¹

[The remaining Campbell letters are printed in the first volume of AN HISTORICAL DIGEST.]

¹ Indorsed by Governor Winthrop: "Publick occurrences & the adres to her Maj. April 12th 1703."

The Boston News-Letter

1704-1712

IN less than a year after Postmaster John Campbell had begun sending his manuscript news letters to the colonial governors he concluded that this news could be brought out regularly in printed form to the advantage of the public and profitably to himself. Accordingly he began the publication of The Boston News-Letter, the first issue of which was for the week ending April 24, 1704. This was the first newspaper, in the English-speaking American colonies destined to be successful in maintaining a lasting existence. Technically the News-Letter was the second American newspaper, for undoubtedly the ill-fated Publick Occurrences was intended by Benjamin Harris to be regular and permanent and would have been so continued had it not been suppressed. But Campbell holding government position and, therefore, having the countenance of those in authority was more fortunate, than his predecessor, and his publication, by virtue of its continuity, holds place historically at the head of the long line of American periodicals.

The initial number of the News-Letter was not a promising performance. Its two small pages, half sheet folio, were nearly filled with foreign news, the domestic items being almost a negligible quantity. As respects this disproportion, an example was set which was followed for many years. In succeeding numbers the foreign news generally consisted of excerpts from London newspapers and was always several months after date—sometimes nearly a year,—being brought by vessels which as often came round about by the way of Bermuda, Virginia or New York as direct to the port of Boston. Aside from this lack of freshness, the collation of foreign news was as fairly complete and accurate a presentation of what was happening in Europe as could be reasonably expected, although, of course, conforming to the spirit of the age, attention was mainly given to the publication of royal proclamations and addresses, and other state papers, of parliamentary proceedings, governmental affairs and military movements. Particularly, at the outset, the events of the war for the Spanish succession, 1703-1713, were recorded regularly and in detail to the extent of timely minuteness and often inaccuracy.

It was not unusual for the domestic news to be limited to two

THE BOSTON NEWS-LETTER

or three short items, and only on rare occasions did it fill more than a column or a column and a half of the four, eight, or—now and then—twelve, columns of an issue. For the most part during the period covered by the first volume of this Digest it consisted of ship news, the governor's proclamations, reports of the elections of representatives to the general court, accounts of engagements with the Indians or with the French privateers, news from the West Indies, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Maine, Rhode Island and New York, and occasionally from far-away Philadelphia, or farther away South Carolina. Sometimes remarkable incidents in neighboring cities or towns were noted with an editorial apology.

Campbell's venture was not a financial success; throughout all its early years it led a precarious existence. Subscribers were few and advertisers—the main stay of the modern newspaper—were conspicuously absent. Notwithstanding the pre-supposed popular desire for the news of the day the publisher seems to have been, to a very considerable extent, compelled to create his reading public. Interest in English and European affairs, except as pertaining to the colonies, was surely waning, there were few stirring home events to excite curiosity and what little domestic news there might be was the hear-say of the community long before it could appear in print.

Almost immediately after beginning publication the necessity for more generous support was forced upon the publisher, and his appeals for subscribers, as set forth in the columns of his paper, were frequent and urgent. In November, 1705, he presented a petition to the general assembly then in session asking an allowance "for the year past, in the discharge of both Posts, the Postoffice, and Letter of Intelligence, * * and for the future." That part of the petition referring to the News-Letter was:

"your Petitioner also having Last year sett on foott a weekly Letter of Intelligence for both foreign and Domestick occurrences, expecting that the Incomes thereby being sett at a Moderate Rate, would be sufficient to defray the Necessary Charge thereof; The which it did not do, And this year several Gentlemen, Merchants and others being willing it should not drop, but be continued, have Agreed to contribute towards It's support for another year: yet Notwithstanding there are not a Competent number that offers to carry it on, And It being found beneficial & of Publick use and service to the Countrey to prevent a great many false Reports." ¹

¹ The Acts and Resolves of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, vol. VIII, pp. 158 and 562-563; Massachusetts Archives, vol. 88, pp. 344-345.

THE BOSTON NEWS-LETTER

To print the News-Letter Campbell engaged Bartholomew Green, then the foremost printer in the country.¹ Isaiah Thomas wrote of him and the News-Letter;

"Bartholomew Green began the printing of *The Boston News-Letter*, in Newbury street, in a small wooden building, to which another room was annexed some years after, for the accomodation of his son. This building was burnt down in 1734; it was previously occupied as a printing house both by young Green and John Draper, who did business independently of each other. Another house of like dimensions was built on the same spot by John Draper, the successor of the elder B. Green. This building was occupied as a printing house, until the British troops evacuated Boston, in 1776. At that place began and ended the printing of *The Boston News-Letter*."²

Concerning the location of Benjamin Green's printing office Samuel Abbott Green has written:

"It was printed by Bartholomew Green, and 'Sold by Nicholas Boone, at his Shop near the Old Meeting-House' which structure then stood on the lot now bounded on three sides by Cornhill Court and Court Avenue, and fronting on Washington Street. At the present time the Rogers Building occupies the whole of this square, perhaps 70 feet by 80 in dimensions. The site of Boone's shop was on the second lot south of Court Avenue, the corner lot between it and the meeting-house being occupied by Major Davis, apothecary; and next to Boone's shop on the south was John Campbell, where without doubt he kept the post-office."³

Green printed The Boston News-Letter for three and a half years. Then he was succeeded by John Allen whose name first appears on the issue for November 10, 1707. Green's name re-appeared on the issue of October 8, 1711, one week after the burning of Allen's office. He continued to print for Campbell until December 31, 1722, when he became publisher as well as printer.

Starting with a single half-sheet folio, printed on both sides, two columns to the page, the News-Letter continued without material change in form during the greater part of its career. Almost from the outset, however, there were occasional expansions to two, four, six,

[The remaining portion of this historical sketch is in the first volume of AN HISTORICAL DIGEST.]

1 Bartholomew Green was born in Cambridge, October 12, 1666. He was the son of Samuel Green, for more than forty years the celebrated head of the Cambridge Press, succeeding Stephen Daye the pioneer printer in the colonies; who came to New England in 1630, and died January 1, 1702. The son learned his trade in the office of his father and after the death of the latter he succeeded to the position of printer to the college. For thirty years he was printer to the governor and council and his imprint is on many of the best American books of his time. He died December 28, 1732, and a notice of his death was printed in the News-Letter of January 4, 1773.

2 History of Printing, vol. 1, p. 90.

3 Ten Fac-Simile Reproductions Relating to Various Subjects, p. 15.

The Boston News

Published by Authority

From Monday April 17. to Monday

London Flying-Post from Decemb. 22. to 4th. 1703.

Letters from Scotland bring us the Copy of a Sheet lately Printed there, intitled, *A reasonable Alarm for Scotland. In a Letter from a Gentleman in the City, to his Friend in the Country, concerning the present Danger of the Kingdom and of the Protestant Religion.*

The Letter takes Notice, That Papists swarm in that Nation, that they traffick more avowedly than formerly, & that of late many Scores of Priests and Jesuits are come thither from France, and gone to the North, to the Highlands & other places of the Country. That the Ministers of the Highlands and North gave in large Lists of them to the Committee of the General Assembly, to be laid before the Privy-Council.

It likewise observes, that a great Number of other ill affected persons are come over from France, under pretence of accepting her Majesty's Gracious Indemnity; but, in reality, to increase Divisions in the Nation, and to entertain a Correspondence with France: That their ill intentions are evident from their talking big, their owning the Interest of the pretended King James VIII. their secret Cabals, and their baying up of Arms and Ammunition, wherever they can find them.

To the head of the late Whigs, and Abing of some dissenting persons, many of whom are for the Pretender, that several of them have declared they had rather embrace Popery than conform to the present Government, that they refuse to pray

for the Queen, but use the ambiguous word Sovereign, and some of them pray in express Words for the King and Royal Family; and the charitable and generous Prince who has shew'd them so much kindness. He likewise takes notice of Letters not long ago found in Cyprus, and directed to a Person lately come thither from St. Germain.

He says that the greatest Jacobites, who will not quit themselves by taking the Oaths to Her Majesty, do now with the Papists and their Compagnons from St. Germain set up for the Liberty of the Subject, contrary to their own Principles, but mean to keep up a Division in the Nation. He adds, that they aggravate those things which the People complain of, as to England's refusing to allow them a Freedom of Trade, &c. and do all they can to foment Divisions betwixt the Nations, and to obstruct the best of those things complained of.

The Jacobites, he says, do all they can to persuade the Nation that their pretended King is a Protestant in his Heart, tho' he dares not declare it avile under the Power of France, that he is acquainted with the Ministers of his Father's Government, will govern us more according to Law, and is dearer himself to his Subjects.

They magnify the Strength of their own Party, and the Weakness and Divisions of the other, in order to seduce and hasten their Undertaking, they argue themselves out of their Fears, and into the highest assurance of accomplishing their purpose.

From all this Assistance they be so impudent, as to make pretensions that whether this War will not them but then best spare Sea being over considerable of him to the use but find over Arms and Am

He endeavours to lower the loyalty of the Protestants, and Law. He says, that the Religion and Politicks of the Enemy, the Obligations of the French King, wholly at his disposal, that if he be so much obliged to the French King, he must be obliged to entertain him, and force

it over his own Debt. The Pretenders and Jacobites sufficiently aware of this

The late Queen could Blood which to turn the War will be then for Nation; and a pretended Son of the bays, it were take a Prince's attitude, Perfect Rage and Envy, and their present flatters cannot prevent, as the He adds, This be a more effectual Universal Mischief, than the Pretence of an attempt it, as the Design we not but respect three Nations.

From all the Interest of the and says, that the Alarm, and the Arms and Ammunition, not only alienate on ought all

restored, he will see to loose before those Troops leave Britain, being a good Proponent in the French schools, he will never think himself oblig'd, but by the utter Ruin of his Country, in Henricks and Treason.

A pretended Mother, who in the was Queen of Ireland, advised it of Scotland into a hundred English doing so, by the greatest part of the people, is at Paris to have her educated to her own Murder, Treason, a great Madness in the Nation, to red up in the horrid School of Ignorance and Cruelty, and filled with

The Jacobites, he says, both in St. Germain, are impatient under the Pretence, and knowing that Circumstances will be much worse than they are, are most inclinable to be under the Pretence of the French King into as there cannot be a more ruinous way for himself to manage it, and to ruin the Protestant Church, by setting up the Pretender upon the Throne of Britain, he will in all probability do that he should be persuaded that old misery in the dark, yet he can find some Advantage by introducing the

is the Author concludes it to be the Nation, to provide for Self Defence, as many have already taken the Pretence of furnishing themselves with Arms, and the Government will be obliged to support it, since the Pretence of the Pretender is the Defence



The Boston News-Letter.

From Monday April 17. to Monday April 24. 1704.

MH—AS—HU—NY

[T]HE first number of the first continuous newspaper of the English colonies in America covered the week from Monday, April 17, to Monday, April 24, 1704. It was printed on both sides of a half sheet folio, the paper page being 7 by 11½ inches and the type page 6¼ by 10¾ inches. It contains an extract from the London Flying Post respecting the pretender, who called himself King James VIII of Scotland, sending Popish missionaries from France to Scotland; the queen's speech to parliament; a few items of domestic news and the advertisement of the publisher, John Campbell.

Two editions of this issue were printed as is clearly proven by typographical differences in the three complete copies that have been preserved, or are known to be extant. A mutilated copy, about one-third of the whole sheet, is in the Harvard College library. Two of the three complete copies, in the libraries of the American Antiquarian Society and the New York Historical Society, are identical, both being of the first edition. The other copy, in the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society, is of the second edition.

Some of the differences in these editions have been referred to by Samuel Abbott Green,¹ and others, for the first time, are noted here. Punctuation varies frequently in the two editions. In the second paragraph of the second column of the first page the word Eamily of the first edition is corrected to Family in the second; the word and is substituted for the character &; in the fifth paragraph of the first column of the first page the letter-spacing in the second edition is closer so that the lines break differently; in the fifth paragraph of the second column of the second page *Curraso* is substituted in the second edition for *Currasoa* and *Currasoe* in the first; and in the first paragraph of the same column *Rhode Island* of the first edition becomes *Rhod Island* in the second; in the ninth paragraph of the same column *Maryland* of the first edition becomes *Marryland* in the second. Copies of the publisher's advertisement as it was printed in each edition, showing particularly a change in the advertising agency of the paper, are printed herewith. The first edition had this imprint: "*Boston*, Printed by *B. Green*. Sold by *Nicholas Boone*, at his Shop near the Old Meeting House", while the imprint of the second edition was: "**Boston**: Printed by *B. Green*. Sold by *Nicholas Boone*, at his Shop near the Old Meeting House."

Undoubtedly the appearance of this sheet excited something more than ordinary interest in the community. Concerning it Judge Sewall wrote:

"April 24, 1704. I went to Cambridge to see some Books on the Revelation, and there met with Mr. Pignet: went into Hall

1 Ten Fac-Simile Reproductions Relating to Various Subjects.

and heard Mr. Willard expound Rom. 4 9 10 11 and pray. I gave Mr. Willard the first News-Letter that ever was carried over the River. He shew'd it the Fellows. I came home in company with Mr. Adams."¹

The first number of the News-Letter has been several times reprinted from type. In some instances these reprints have been on paper stained with coffee liquor to give it the brown appearance of age, and many such have passed into the possession of persons who have been led to believe them genuine originals. So far as is known at this writing (1909) only three complete copies and one fragment of this issue are in existence. The number has also been several times reproduced in fac-simile by photograph.²]

Boston, April 18 Arrived Capt. *Sill* from *Jamaica* about 4 Weeks Passage, says they continue there very Sickly.

Mr. *Nathaniel Oliver* a principal Merchant of this place died *April 15* & was decently inter'd *April, 18. Ætatis 53.*

The Honourable Col. *Nathaniel Byfield* Esq. is Commissioned Judge of the Admiralty for the Provinces of *Massachusetts-Bay, New-Hampshire* and *Rhod-Island*. And *Thomas Newton* Esq. Judge-Deputy for the Colony of *Massachusetts-Bay*.

The 20. the Rd. Mr. *Pemberton* Preach'd an Excellent Sermon on 1 *Thes* 4. 11. *And do your own business:* Exhorting all Ranks & Degrees of Persons to do their own work, in order to a REFORMATION: which His Excellency has ordered to be Printed.

The 21. His Excellency Dissolved the Gen. Assembly.

Rhode-Island 22. The Rd. Mr. *Lockyer* dyed on Thurs. last

Capt. *Toungrello* has taken Five Prizes off of *Curraso*, one of which is come in to *Rhode-Island* mostly Loaden with *Cocco, Tobacco, Liquors* &c. She is a *Curraso* Trader, as all the rest were. One of the Five was one *Larew* a *French-man*, a Sloop of 8 Guns & 8¹/₂ Patteraro's 76 Men, Fought him Board and Board three Glasses; Captain *Larew* was kill'd, and 20 of his Men kill'd & wounded: Capt. *Toungrello* wounded thro' the Body; and five of his men, but none kill'd, he had but 40 Fighting Men, when he took *Larew*.

The 18 Currant, came in a Sloop to this Port from *Virginia*, the Master informed Governour *Cranston* Esq. he was Chased by a Topsail Shallop off of *Block-Island*, which he judged to be a *French* Privateer, and that there was two other Vessels in her Company, which he judged to be her Prizes. Whereupon his Honour being

¹ Diary of Samuel Sewall, vol. I, p. 100.

² Ten Fac-Simile Reproductions Relating to Various Subjects, by Samuel Abbott Green; Curiosities of History, by William W. Wheildon.

concerning for the Publick Weal and Safety of Her Majesties good Subjects, immediately caused the Drum to beat for Voluntiers, under the Command of Capt. *Wanton*, and in 3 or four hours time, Fitted and Man'd a Brigantine, with 70 brisk young men well Arm'd, who Sail'd the following Night, returned last Evening, and gave his Honour an Account, that they found the aforesaid Shallop, with one other, and a Ketch at *Tarpolian* Cove, who were all Fishing Vessels belonging to *Marblehead* or *Salem*, who were Fishing off of *Block-Island*, one of them was a *French* built Shallop with a Topsail, which gave the great suspician that they were Enemies.

New-York, April 17. By a Barque from *Jamacia*, (last from *Barmuda*, 7 Weeks Passage,) says, there was an Imbargo in that Island several Months, occasioned by News they had of a design the *French* & *Spaniards* had, to make a descent upon them: She came out with the Homeward bound *London* Fleet, who are gone home without Convoy.

Capt. *Davison* in the *Eagle* Gally, Sailes for *London*, in a Month, if the *Virginia* Fleet stays so long; he intends to keep them Company Home, if not, to run for it, being Built for that Service.

Philadelphia, April, 14. An Account that the *Dreadnaught* Man of War was Arrived in *Marryland*.

N. London, April, 20. The *Adventure*, A Vessel 60 Tuns, will Sail from thence to *London*, in three Weeks or a Months time.

Advertisement.

THIS News-Letter is to be continued Weekly; and all Persons who have any Houses, Lands, Tenements, Farms, Ships, Vessels, Goods, Wares or Merchandizes, &c. to be Sold, or Let; or Servants Runaway, or Goods Stole or Lost; may have the same inserted at a Reasonable Rate, from *Twelve Pence* to *Five Shillings*, and not to exceed: Who may agree with *John Campbel* Post-master of *Boston*.

All Persons in Town and Country, may have said News-Letter every Week, Yearly, upon reasonable terms, agreeing with *John Campbel*, Post-master for the same.

[Below is the text of this advertisement as it appeared in the first edition of this issue.]

THIS News-Letter is to be continued Weekly; and all Persons who have any Houses, Lands, Tenements, Farmes, Ships, Vessels, Goods, Wares or Merchandizes, &c. to be Sold, or Lett;

or Servants Runaway; or Goods Stoll or Lost, may have the same Inserted at a Reasonable Rate; from Twelve Pence to Five Shillings, and not to exceed: Who may agree with *Nicholas Boone* for the same at his Shop, next door to Major *Davis's*, Apothecary in *Boston*, near the Old Meeting-House.

All Persons in Town and Country may have said News-Letter Weekly upon reasonable terms, agreeing with *John Campbell* Post-Master for the same.

M. E.

Mumb. 2.

The Boston News-Letter.

From Monday April 24. to Monday May 1. 1704.

MH—AS—NY

[THIS issue is a full sheet folio, the last page, however, blank. The foreign matter comprises extracts from the London Flying Post, December 23-25, covering European war news in advices from Warsaw, Zurich, and Vienna, and reports from Frankfort as to the design of France and Spain to divide Switzerland "betwixt them".]

South-Carolina Via New-York.

AN Account of what the Army from thence had done, under the Command of Colonel *Moore* in his Expedition last Winter against the *Spaniards* and *Spanish* Indians. In a Letter from him to the Governour of *Carolina*. May it please Your Honour to accept of this short Narrative of what I with the Army under my Command have been doing since my Departure from the *Ockomulgg* on the 19th. *December*. On the 14th. *January* we came to a Town, and strong and almost regular Fort about Sun Rising, call'd *Ayavalle*, at our first approach the Indians in it fired and shot Arrows at us briskly; from which we shelter'd our selves under the side of a great Mudwall'd House, till we could take a view of the Fort, and consider of the best way of assaulting it: which we concluded to be by breaking the Church door, which made a part of the Fort, with Axes. I no sooner proposed this, but my men readily undertook it; ran up to it briskly, (the Enemy at the same time shooting at them) were beaten off without effecting it, and fourteen white men wounded, two hours after that we thought fit to attempt the burning the Church, which we did, three or four Indians assisting us: The Indians in it obstinately defending themselves, and kill'd us two white men, viz *Frances Plowden* and

Thomas Dale; after we were within their Fort, a Fryar the only white in it came forth and begged mercy: In this we took about 26 men alive, and 58 Women and Children; The Indians took about as many more of each sort, the Fryar told us, we kill'd in the two Storms Twenty five men. The next morning the Captain of *St Lewis* Fort with 23 white men and 400 Indians came to Fight us, which we did, beat him, took him, and Eight of his men Prisoners: And as the Indians which say they did it, told us kill'd five or six Whites: We have a particular Account from our Indians of 168 Indian men kill'd and taken in the Fight and Flight, but the *Appalatchia* Indians say, they Lost 200, which we have reason to believe to be the least. Captain *John Berringer* Fighting bravely in the Head of our men was kill'd at my foot: Captain *Fox* dyed of a Wound given him at the first Storming of the Fort. Two days after I sent to the *Cassik* of *Ibitachuka*, who with 130 men was in his strong and well made Fort, to come and make his peace with me, the which he did, and compounded for it, with his Churches Plate, and ten Horses laden with Provisions: After this I marched thro' five Towns which had all strong Forts and Defences against small Arms; they all submitted and surrendered their Forts to me without condition. I have now in my Company all the whole People of three Towns, and the greatest part of four more: we have totally destroyed all the people of two Towns: So that we have left in *Appalatchia* but that one Town which compounded with one part of *St. Lewis*, and the people of one Town which run away all together; their Town, Church and Fort we have burnt. The people of *St Lewis* come to me every night. I expect and have advice that the Town which compounded with me, are coming after me: The waiting for these People make my Marches slow, for I'm willing to bring away with me free, as many of the Indians as I can: This being the Address of the Commons to Your Honour to Order it so, this will make my mens part of Plunder (which otherwise might have been 100*l.* a man) but small: but I hope with Your Honours assistance to find away to gratifie them for their bold and stout action, and their great loss of blood: I never see or hear of a stouter or braver thing done, than the Storming the Fort: It hath regained the reputation we seem'd to have lost under the Conduct of *Robert Macken*, the Indians having now a mighty value for the Whites: *Appalatchia* is now reduced to the feeble and low condition, that it can neither suport *St Augustin* with Provision, or disturb, endamage or frighten us; our Indians living between us and *Appalatchia* and the *French*: In short we have made *Carolina* as safe as the conquest of *Appalatchia* can make it. If I had not so many men wounded in our first Attempt, I had assaulted *St*

Lewis Fort, in which is about 28 or 30 men, and 20 of these came thither from *Panseccoola* to buy Provision the first night after I took the first Fort. On Sabbath the 23^d Instant I came out of *Appalatchia* settle[ment], and am now about Thirty miles on my way home, but do not expect to reach it before the middle of *March*, notwithstanding my Horses will not be able to carry me to the *Chereques* Mountains. I have had a dirty, tedious and uneasie Journey, and though I have no reason to fear any harm from the Enemy, through the difference between the Whites and Indians, and between Indians and Indians, bad way and fales Alarms, do still labour under hourly uneasiness. The number of free *Appalatchia* Indians which are now under my protection, and bound with me to *Carolina* are 1300. And 100 for Slaves. The Indians under my Command kill'd and took Prisoners in the Plantation, whilst we Stormed the Fort, as many Indians as we and they took and kill'd in the Fort. Dated in the Woods 50 Miles N. and E. of *Appalatchia*.¹

Piscataqua, April 22d. Last night arrived one *Parker* in a Sloop from *Antigua* 3 Weeks passage, Says, that the New General is daily expected with 14. or 16. Sail of men of War. That the French have 22 Sail of Privateers out.

Newbury, April 22. The Honourable Col. *Daniel Pierce* Esq. one of her Majesties Council for this Province Dyed this day.

Boston, April 24. By a Sloop arrived here from *Jamacia*, *Judah Thacher* Master, about 5 Weeks passage from thence; acquainted, That the man who gave information of a descent intended by the French and Spaniards to be made on that Island, being found false was put in Prison. That there was an Indian come from the Mainland of *New-Spain*, complaining to the Governour of *Jamacia*, of bad usage they had met from the Spaniards, and if His Excellency would send Forces, that the Indians would joyn them, and destroy the Spaniards, what they could: The Indian was a brisk little Fellow, whom his Excellency was pleas'd to Cloath well: but whither he would send Forces or not the Master could not tell. There was one Capt. *Christian* a French Privateer, in a small Snow about 6 Guns, Sailed from the *Havana*, with two more Privateer Sloops in Company, having on Board about 150 men, designed to Land on the North side of the Island of *Jamacia*, and plunder the People. But Capt. *Gelding* in a private man of

¹ Reprinted from the News-Letter in Carroll's Historical Collections of South Carolina, vol. II 1836. Bancroft in his History of the United States, vol. II, p. 194, errs in referring to this invasion as having occurred in the last weeks of 1705.

War Sloop, 4 Guns, about 60 men, belonging to *Jamacia*, came up with said *Christian*, and his two Sloops; the which two Sloops he took, and gave *Christian* abroad side, and Chased him; but *Christian* out-sailing *Gelding*, made his escape, and got clear; which if Capt. *Gelding* had not met with, might have proved very detrimental to that Island.

Boston April 28. An Express came to His Excellency from *New-Hampshire*, acquainting him, That there was a man found Dead and Scalpt near *Dover*, but whither kill'd by *English* or *Indians*, not yet known.

Sail'd from *Boston* this Week, Capt. *William Blaire*, in the Ship *Providence* for *Barbados*. *Zachariah Cauley*, in the Ship *John* for *Lisbon*. *Stephen Pain*, in the Sloop *Mary* for *Madera*. *John Moor* in the Ketch *New-Berry* for *Newfoundland*. *Richard Smith*, Brigateen *Dragon*, for *Antigua*. *Nehemiah Heath* in a Brigateen *Endeavour*, for *Ruanoke*.

And out-ward bound, *James Bridgham* for *Barbados*, in the Sloop *Unity*. *John Richards*, in the Brigateen *Sarah*, for *Jamacia*: And *Nathanael Vial* in a Sloop *Lark*, for said Port. *Joseph Brown*, in the Ketch *Freke*, for *Madera*. And Capt. *Giles Fyfield* in the Ship *Mary*, for *Antigua*, Sails within Ten days, from *Rhode-Island*. Capt. *Samuel Pain* in the Ship *Grayhound*, is bound for *Nevis*, will Sail in about a Fortnight. *Judah Thacher* in a Sloop bound for *Jamacia*, will Sail about 20 days hence.

Piscataqua, April 28. By Letters thence, acquainted, That on the 18th Marched Forty one English and Indians from *Salmon-Falls* unto *Winnopiscag Ponds*, and at the same time from thence (being the Seat of War) about 90 more *Eastward*, under the Conduct of Capt. *Brown*, having 8 dayes Provision, who Travelled thro' *Well's* round *Mowsum River*, and 20 Miles up *Saco*, being the most reputed Places for Fishing; they returned last *Wednesday*, but could not discover any Foot-steps of the Enemy, excepting one Canoo.

On *Tuesday* the 25 *Nathanael Meader* of *Dover* in *Oyster River*, being [?at] work in his Field, and burning Brush, was [way] laid by a Company of Indians, as he returned home about Sunset, who shot him through the thigh & leggs, then took, Scalpt, kill'd, and stript him Naked.

On *Wednesday* Morning a small Scout made a descent on *Lam-prey, Eel River*, who destroyed *Edward Taylor*, at the Saw-mill, and took his Wife and Son Captive, as they went from the Garri-

son unto their dwelling-house, about a Mile and a half distant in the Woods. Major *Hilton* instantly raised about 20 men, who in a little time discovered the Enemies track, but the Night approaching, prevented any further discovery.

Rhode-Island, April 27. The Honourable Col. *Nathanael Byfield* Esq. his Commission for Judge of the Admiralty, was published and admitted of here, on the 25. Currant.

The prize that Capt. *Toungerlo* sent in, could not be condemned, in regard there was not Evidences sent in her; but those to whom she was conugned proffer'd sufficient Bond and Security to respond said Goods, upon having liberty to take them on Shoar till could be condemned, which suppos'd would be granted.

New-York, April 24. The *Dreadnought* with Colonel *Seymour*, Governour of *Maryland* Arrived the 10th Instant. The *Virginia* Fleet will Sail the latter end of *May* for *London*. Captain *Davison* from hence designs to keep them Company, if they Sail at that time. On the 18th Arrived a Sloop here from *Curaso*: the 23. a Sloop Arrived from *Madera*, 7 Weeks Passage, *Joseph Wright* Master. Capt. *Burges* and Capt. *Davies* lie ready to Sail for *Virginia*, for Convoy home.

☞ Lost on the 10. of *April* last off Mr. *Shippen's* Wharff in *Boston*, Two Iron Anvils, weighing between 120 and 140 pound each: Whoever has taken them up, and will bring or give true Intelligence of them to *John Campbel* Post-master, shall have a sufficient reward.

Advertisement.

THIS News-Letter is to be continued Weekly; and all Persons who have any Houses, Lands, Tenements, Farms, Ships, Vessels, Goods, Wares, or Merchandizes, &c. to be Sold, or Let; or Servants Run-away, or Goods Stole or Lost; may have the same inserted at a Reasonable Rate, from *Twelve Pence* to *Five Shillings*, and not to exceed: Who may agree with *John Campbel*, Post-master of *Boston*, In the same: And if in the Country, with the Post-master of the respective Towns, to be transmitted to the Post-master of *Boston*: and all such Advertisements are to be brought in Writing to said Post-master.

The Boston News-Letter.

From Monday May 1. to Monday May 8. 1704.

MH—AS—NY

[IN this issue return was made to the half sheet folio of the first number, printed on both sides. The first page is largely taken up by extracts from the London Gazette, Novemb. 8 to 11, 1703, giving a report of the opening of parliament and the queen's speech. The domestic news is more varied than that of the previous issues.]

By his Excellency JOSEPH DUDLEY Esq. Captain General and Governour in Chief, in and over Her Majesties Province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New England

A PROCLAMATION for a General FAST

UPON Consideration of the troublesome State of Europe by reason of the Calamitous Wars wherein those Nations are Engaged amongst themselves, and of Her Majesties Great & Just Interest therein: As also the present Circumstances of these Her Majesties Territories and Plantations, And the Influences which the Wars of Europe may have upon our selves; Together with the Hostilitie acted against us by the treacherous Muderous Salvages within our Limits.

I have thought fit, by and with the Advice of Her Majesties Council, and at the desire of the Representatives, to Appoint Thursday, the 18th of May next, A Day of Publick Fasting with Prayer, to be Observed throughout this Province, Humbly to Implore the Divine Mercy, for the Preservation of Her Majesties Sacred Person, That Her just Armes with those of her Allies may be prosperous in the Actions of this present Year; That the Forces in this Province Employed in Her Majesties Service, may by the good Conduct of Heaven, be Succeeded in their just Enterprizes, and our Enemies Defeated; That the Defence of Divine Protection may be over our Sea Coast and Inland Frontiers; That our Seed-time and Harvest, may be under benign Influences of Heaven; That there may be a plentiful Effusion of the Holy Spirit of GOD, for a thorough Reformation of all those Evils which are amongst us, That so GOD may turn away His Anger, and Restore unto us a prosperous State: And that the Protestant Interest may every where prevail throughout the World. Exhorting both Ministers and People in their respective Assemblies Religiously to perform the Duties required on such a

THE BOSTON NEWS-LETTER, MAY 8, 1704

Day, with a becoming Devotion: And all Servile Labour is forbidden thereupon.

Given at *Boston* the 27th Day of *April* 1704, In the Third Year of Her Majesties Reign

By Order of His Excellency and Council,

J. DUDLEY

Issac Addington Secr.

GOD Save the Queen.

Piscataqua, April 29. By¹ Letters thence, acquainted, That on Fryday the 28th four *Indians* Seized a Servant Maid of *Richard Waldron's* Esq. at *Cocheco*, who went about 150 yards from the Garrison to a Spring, for a Jugg of Water, about half an hour before Sun down: Supposed to be the same *Indians* that did the Mischief mentioned in my last upon *Nathaniel Meader*, and *Edward Taylor*: They askt her many Questions; *Viz.* Whither there was not a *French* Shallop put on Shoar in *New-England* in a Storm? And what was become of the Frenchmen? Whither or not we had any Forces going out against the French? What number of Soldiers was in the Garrison? What Mr. *Waldron* had been doing in his Field all day? What he designed to do with that new Timber hal'd to the side of his House? They told her that they had lyen near his House all that day, and a Week before to wait to Catch him, whom they saw to pass over his Boom towards Capt. *Geerishes* two Hours, by Sun-set; and that they might take him on his return, they had crept down to the foot of the Boom, as near as possible: at which time the Maid came along, and were forced to take her, otherwise they must have been discovered: They told her also that they had been so near him in the Field, that one of them had Cock'd his Gun at him, and going to discharge, another perswaded him to forbear, he would presently have a better Shot at him: They likewise told her 'twas never the near for him to build his New Fortifications round his House, for they would certainly take him, and that 'twere in Vain for him to Plant his New Orchard in his Field, for he should neither eat the Apples, nor drink the Cyder, for that they would have him by & by, and roast him,

[The reprints of the succeeding issues of the News-Letter and of the other newspapers of the provincial period will constitute the contents of the twenty volumes of AN HISTORICAL DIGEST.]

¹ Written on the margin of the copy in the file of the Massachusetts Historical Society; "This was a story invented by the Girl to conceal her staying too long at the Spring with a young man."